

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5 and 12 are amended herein. Claims 1-23 are pending in the application.

Declaration

The Office Action alleges that a Declaration has not been filed as of the date of the Office Action.

A Declaration was filed for the subject application on December 2, 1999. A copy of the originally filed Declaration is attached hereto.

Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11-16 and 18-23 over Baran

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11-16 and 18-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Baran et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,893,333 ("Baran"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 and 2 recite, *inter alia*, an optical character recognizer adapted to recognize and textually convert header information scanned from a predetermined location. Claims 5-9, 11-16 and 18 recite, *inter alia*, automatically sending a document to a unique destination with a header identified by textual data. Claims 19-23 recite, *inter alia*, including scanned sender information in a header portion of an outgoing facsimile.

Baran appears to disclose facsimile transceivers to interactively select and retrieve facsimile pages from a shared facsimile database FAX serve system (Abstract). A user fills in information on a selector sheet, such as an advertisement, and transmits at least bar code portions of the advertisement via a FAX transceiver (Baran, col. 7, lines 5-20). Hand printed characters on the selector sheet are read by a receiving FAX server and used to send information back to a user (Baran, col. 7, lines 21-39). A user can fill out personal information on the request for information from the FAX server (Baran, Fig. 2).

Baran discloses user information on the face of a scanned document. However, the user information is **NOT** in a header, a **term of art**. As

detailed in the Applicants' specification, a header is information at a top of a page containing, e.g., a fax number and/or other sender identification information. Moreover, even if Baran disclosed the user information was in a header, which Baran fails to do, the header information and data is **NOT scanned and identified by textual information and data**, as recited by claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11-16 and 18-23.

A benefit of a header based on and identified textually converted information and data is, e.g., the ability to share a fax machine in an office. In an office that shares a fax machine, a plurality of users may want to have a header for their fax that is customized. By having a header based on textually converted information and data, a page within a fax can be textually converted and used to create a custom header for each individual user within an office.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11-16 and 18-23 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 3 over Baran in view of Nakamura

In the Office Action, claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Baran in view of Nakamura et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,781,310 ("Nakamura"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 3 is dependent on claim 1, and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 3 recites, *inter alia*, a white board including a scanner.

As discussed above, Baran fails to disclose an optical character recognizer adapted to recognize and textually convert header information scanned from a predetermined location, as recited by claim 3.

The Office Action relies on Nakamura to alleged make up for the deficiencies in Baran to arrive at the claimed invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nakamura appears to disclose a copying system in which an image inputting unit and an image outputting unit are connected via a conventional data transmission path (Abstract). A color image sensor device scans a reference

white plate first, and background data obtained by scanning the reference white plate (Nakamura, col. 5, lines 29-31). Data scanned thereafter is corrected in accordance with the background data (Nakamura, col. 5, lines 34-36).

Nakamura discloses scanning a white plate to calibrate a scanner. A white plate is **NOT** a white board, as recited by claim 3.

Moreover, Nakamura fails to disclose or suggest an optical character recognizer adapted to recognize and textually convert header information scanned from a predetermined location, as recited by claim 3.

Neither Baran nor Nakamura, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest a white board, much less an optical character recognizer adapted to recognize and textually convert header information scanned from a predetermined location, as recited by claim 3.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claim 3 is patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 4, 10 and 17 over Baran in view of Nakamura and Eguchi

In the Office Action, claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Baran in view of Nakamura, and further in view of Eguchi, U.S. Patent No. 6,219,150 ("Eguchi"), and claims 10 and 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Baran in view of Eguchi. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 4, 10 and 17 are dependent on claims 1, 5 and 12 respectively, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 5 and 12.

Claim 4 recites, *inter alia*, automatically sending a document to a unique destination with a header identified by textual data. Claims 10 and 17 recite, *inter alia*, automatically sending a document to a unique destination with a header identified by textual data.

As discussed above, neither Baran nor Nakamura, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest automatically sending a document to a unique destination with a header identified by textual data, as recited by claim 4.

As discussed above, neither Baran nor Nakamura, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest automatically sending a document to a unique destination with a header identified by textual data, as recited by claims 10 and 17.

The Office Action relies on Eguchi to alleged make up for the deficiencies in Baran and Nagamura to arrive at the claimed invention. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Eguchi appears to disclose a communication terminal device having an electronic mail function that is capable of reproducing a single original image even if it receives a plurality of electronic mails (Abstract). A main control unit refers to header information of each of received electronic mails to determine whether or not each of the electronic mails corresponds to an original image (Eguchi, col. 5, lines 7-13).

Eguchi discloses use of headers associated with electronic mail messages. However, the headers are **NOT** disclosed or suggested as based on and identified by textually converted information and data, as recited by claims 4, 10 and 17.

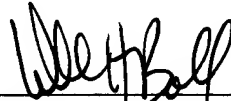
Neither Baran, Nakamura nor Eguchi, either alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest a header based on and identified by textually converted information and data, as recited by claims 4, 10 and 17.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 4, 10 and 17 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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